

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools**

March 8, 2004

Arizona Department of Education

1535 West Jefferson Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Room 417

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Kurt Davis – President

Kimberly Mosher– Vice President

Mary Gifford – Superintendent’s Designee

Lynne Adams – Public Member

Cassandra Larsen - Public Member

Jose Gabriel Loyola – Public Member

**Members Absent**

Mary Lynn Kelly -Business Member

Onnie Shekerjian- Public Member

Paul Smiley - Business Member

Senator Linda Aguirre - Advisory

Representative John Huppenthal - Advisory

Representative Ted Carpenter - Advisory

Meeting began at 9:00 AM

**Agenda Item A—Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item B—Moment of Silence**

**Agenda Item C—Roll Call:** Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Agenda Item D— Call to the Public**

None

**Agenda Item E— Presentation—**Arizona Prevention Resource Center/Arizona State University, Dr. Xavier Morales—Presentation and overview of evidence based approach on bullying prevention.

Dr. Xavier Morales, Associate Director of the Arizona Prevention Resource Center at ASU, presented information on the Arizona Bullying Prevention Initiative. The evidence-based bullying prevention program is wrapping up its first year. The pilot included 15 schools across nine school districts. In its second year, the Initiative plans to build capacity in the school districts by training trainers. While the Initiative will continue to work with the same schools in year two, Dr. Morales said there has been discussion about adding a charter school to the program and training a charter school person to be a “trainer of trainers”.

**Agenda Item F—Consent Agenda—**

**1. World Education Network, Inc. dba Tucson International Academy—Change in legal status and name of charter operator.**

**MOTION**

Motion by Cassandra Larsen to change the legal status and name of charter operator for World Education Network, Inc. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes unanimously**

**Agenda Item G--Discussion and possible action on request to transfer charter from the State Board of Education:**

Kristen informed the Board that Scottsdale Educational Enrichment School and Visions Unlimited had submitted a complete application and their charter contracts were in compliance.

**1. New Visions**

Kristen advised the Board that the FY 2002 annual financial audit of New Visions was a disclaimed opinion. Kristen stated that since the FY 2003 audit was due by March 31, 2004, the Board could wait to be briefed on the outcome of that audit before making a decision of compliance and transfer at this time.

No one from New Visions was available to answer questions regarding the FY 2002 audit.

**2. Scottsdale Educational Enrichment School**

Thea Yockus, Executive Director for Scottsdale Educational Enrichment School, answered questions from the Board.

**3. Visions Unlimited Academy**

Richard Valentine, Board member for Visions Unlimited Academy, answered questions from the Board.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Cassandra Larsen to table Agenda Item G.1 for **New Visions Academy** until the FY 2003 annual financial audit has been received and reviewed. Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

**Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION**

Motion made by Mary Gifford to approve the transfer of **Scottsdale Educational Enrichment School**. Motion seconded by Cassandra Larsen.

**Motion passes  
(Adams abstained)**

**MOTION**

Motion made by Kimberly Mosher to approve the transfer of **Visions Unlimited Academy**. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes  
(Loyola abstained)**

**Agenda Item H-- Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent's Designee Mary Gifford provided an update on Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne's appeal of the recent federal audit that challenges the state's decision to provide federal funds to for-profit charter schools that serve low-income and

special needs students. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General has requested an opinion from the Arizona's Attorney General's Office. Ms. Gifford stated that the Superintendent suggests for-profit charter schools consider changing their status to non-profit as the ADE will have to stop the flow of federal funds to for-profit charter schools if the USDOE opinion holds.

**Agenda Item I--Executive Director's Report –**  
Introduction to the agenda items—Discussion and possible action:

1. Kristen Jordison informed the Board the rules for the Board have been approved by GRRC. She also provided an update on the opening of a rulemaking docket for section on charter oversight. The Board has opened a docket for its next rulemaking package, which will address its charter oversight processes.

2. Kristen presented a draft calendar of events for board meetings, committees, and due dates for the Board to review. She stated the Board will receive the calendar on a monthly basis with updates for future reference.

Kristen introduced Lee McIlroy, who recently joined the staff as a research and statistical analyst.

**Agenda Item J—Presentations--**

1. Arizona Department of Education, Standards and Assessment Unit--Presentation and overview of state mandated testing policy/dual purpose assessment, AIMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade math cut scores, and communication & technical assistance provided to charter schools.

Ron Carriveau, of ADE's Standards and Assessment Unit provided an overview of the State mandated testing policy/dual purpose assessment and discussed the revision to the AIMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade math cut scores.

2. Arizona Department of Education, Research and Standards Unit—Presentation and overview of state academic accountability system, recent modifications and timelines.

Dr. Ildiko Laczko-Kerr presented information on the State accountability system and recent modifications made to it. Specifically, Dr. Laczko-Kerr informed the Board that the State Board of Education recently revised the n-count required from 30 to 15 for labeling of schools under the Arizona LEARNS formula. Charter schools may choose to receive their 2003 label based upon this change for informational purposes only. The Board encouraged schools to request their 2003 label. If any schools are interested in receiving this label they may contact Dr. Laczko-Kerr.

## **Board break from 10:40 to 10:50am**

### **Agenda Item K— Subcommittee Reports and Action Items:**

1. Legislative Subcommittee Report— Legislative update and review of committee actions--Paul Smiley & Michele Diamond.

Kristen reported that the Legislative Sub-committee held an abbreviated meeting on February 18th as that was also the day the Board's continuation bill was heard in the House Education Committee. Director of Government Affairs Michele Diamond informed the Board that HB 2255 (the Board's legislation) had been amended in the House Education Committee to strike all new language but allow the Board the ability to direct ADE to withhold 10% without first having to go through the State Board of Education. Additionally, Michele updated the Board on the status of various education bills.

**No action taken**

2. Discussion and possible action of the Board's position concerning education related bills.

**No action taken**

The Board discussed HB 2618, the Technology Assisted Project-Based Instruction bill, and HB 2696, the No Child Left Behind non-participation bill.

The Board discussed its concerns with the requirement in HB 2618 that requires the SBE and this Board to twice a year select a random sample of parents to participate in a focus group to gather feedback about the program and provide recommendations to improve it. The Board directed staff to communicate the concern of the lack of resources to properly facilitate this type of focus group for meaningful outcomes.

3. Charter Oversight/Strategic Planning and Implementation Report—Update and review of committee actions—Cassandra Larsen

Cassandra Larsen, Committee Chair, briefed the Board on the Oversight/Strategic Planning and Implementation subcommittee. The sub-committee discussed the creation of a policy regarding charter school attendance at meetings where their schools are on the agenda. Ms. Larsen said the sub-committee decided that the Board does not need a policy. Instead, staff will inform the schools that they should be at the meeting to answer Board questions. If they choose not to attend, the Board may postpone taking action.

**No action taken**

4. Discussion and first read on a policy regarding the timeframes for signing and/or opening a charter school.

Ms. Larsen presented to the Board the first read of a policy that addresses the timeframes for signing a charter and/or opening a charter school. Under this policy, an applicant approved to operate a charter school must execute the contract within 12 months of the date of charter approval by the Board and must begin providing educational services within 12 months of the contract's execution or within 24 months of charter approval, whichever date occurs later. The Board will consider adopting this policy at its April meeting.

**No action taken**

5. Discussion and first read on a policy regarding the granting of good cause extensions for the execution of a charter contract or of opening.

Ms. Larsen addressed the granting of good cause extensions for the execution of a charter contract or opening and described the factors that the Board will consider when determining whether to grant a good cause extension. If an extension is granted, Board staff will review the charter holder's approved application and the current application administrative checklist to determine whether additions or substantive changes are necessary to bring the application current with requirements. The holder must submit the requested changes to Board staff 90 days prior to school opening. The Board will consider adopting this policy at its April meeting.

**No action taken**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2005-2006 new charter school application forms and process.

Ms. Larsen reviewed the revisions, and presented them to the Board. The revisions are as follows: change in the due date from September to August, a reference to where the Board's rules can be found, application format specifications, special education instructions clarified & special education rubric broken down for clarification, checklist was reformatted, scoring rubric was reorganized with key phrases bolded, the technical review panel will determine that no scoring areas receives a falls below the expectation, no more than one scoring section is scored as approaching, and 95% of all scored sections score at Meets or Exceeds level. Additionally, changes were made to reduce the potential for inconsistencies in the scoring among technical review panel members: all reviewers will attend a scoring workshop, applications could be grouped into threes or fours and each team would review the same applications, review teams would be provided a copy of the application for review and scoring, review teams will meet and come to consensus on scoring, applicants will be provided copies of consensus scores and comments, staff will act as technical review panel in scoring revised sections of the application, applicants

### **MOTION**

Motion by Mary Gifford to approve the 2005-2006 new charter school application forms and process with the revisions. Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

**Motion passes unanimously**

will be notified of the staff's review, and finally a Board study session will be held prior to the Board's consideration of applications.

The staff will conduct prospective applicant workshops on April 2, May 6, and June 4.

6. Update and discussion on a policy regarding the issuance of disciplinary actions with associated timeframes, violations, and criteria.

Ms. Larsen presented a draft policy on the use of the Board's disciplinary tools. Ms. Larsen expressed the sub-committee's concerns about developing a matrix because of the great diversity in issues brought before the Board and the concern that schools need the opportunity to provide information to the Board prior to decisions being made. The sub-committee did develop a draft policy that describes the Board's statutory discipline authority, factors to consider in determining appropriate discipline, and staff investigation and report regarding non-compliance. After discussion, the Board referred the policy back to the sub-committee for further review.

#### **Agenda Item L—Approval of Minutes**

February 9, 2004  
Executive Session Minutes February 9, 2004  
February 13, 2004

**No action taken**

#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Lynne Adams to approve the minutes of **February 9, 2004, Executive Session Minutes February 9, 2004 and February 13, 2004**. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford

**Motion passes  
(Loyola abstained)**

#### **MOTION AMENDED**

Motion made by Lynne Adams to approve the minutes of **February 9, 2004, Executive Session Minutes February 9, 2004 and February 13, 2004** with the correction of Kimberly Mosher not in attendance at the Executive Session of February 9, 2004. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford

**Motion passes  
(Loyola, Mosher abstained)**

#### **Agenda Item M—Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:51pm.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **MOTION**

Motion by Kimberly Mosher to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Lynne Adams.

**Motion passes unanimously**